

Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

(219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Doug Stukey



Solitary Sandpiper

Nature Center Staff:

Brad Bumgardner

David Garner

Dawn Komasinski

August Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT Daily

www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. However, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Monday July 28

10am Feed the Birds! Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center and help feed the birds and squirrels in the bird feeding area! Great chance for up-close views! BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet everyday for an hour to get you started or help you along. BB

3pm Nature Games! Come to the Nature Center and learn some nature themed games and songs. Great fun for the kids! DK

Tuesday July 29

10am The Singing Sands! Blow your way into the Nature Center Auditorium as we look at the sands of the dunes! Learn why we are called the singing sands and get some close up looks at sands from other beaches in the world! Fascinating fun!

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 28 for details. Join us! DG

3pm Geocaching Jaunt. It's the scavenger hunt with a high tech twist! Meet at the Nature Center and learn to use a GPS unit, what a geocache is, and find your own geocache! Great family activity! DG

Wednesday July 30

10am Mt. Tom Bound! Join us at the Nature Center for an hour walk to Mt. Tom, our highest dune. We'll explore it's creation on this hour hike. DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 28 for details. Join us! DG

3pm Snakes Alive! Get up close and personal with some of our native snakes at the Nature Center Auditorium. Great kids program, particularly if you may be uncomfortable around these reptiles. Join us!! DG

6pm Compost Workshop. Tonight a special workshop, presented by the Recycling and Waste Reduction District of Porter County, will be hosted at the State Park Nature Center. Registration is limited and required. Participants can register at <http://www.itmeanstheworld.org/Workshops2.html>.

Thursday July 31

Naturalists at Summer In-Service Today.

Sorry No Programs.

Nature Center Open 9:30am-4:30pm

Friday August 1

10am Lion Hunt!! Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center for a lion hunt of sorts! We'll be hiking into the high dunes in search of the elusive ant lion. We'll be back within an hour. Join us! DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 28 for details. Join us! DG

3:00pm Making Your Own Field Guide. Come learn to make your own tree field guide. This 45 min. activity will meet at the Nature Center and will have an easy walk around the Nature Center to look for leaves to put in your field guide. Join us! Kids under 12, please bring a parent. DK

Saturday August 2

9:30am Morning Birds. Join us for a morning look at some of the summer birds that call Indiana Dunes home. We'll be out for about an hour. Meet at the Campground Gate. BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 28 for details. Join us! DG

2pm Naturalist Beach Break! Watch for the naturalist on the beach this afternoon. What special things will he or she have! DK

3pm What Makes a River! Meet the Naturalist for an afternoon look at Dune's Creek. We'll meet at the Campground Gate and take a short stroll to the creek and learn some of the features that make it so special. We'll have some dip nets to find some cool aquatic critters. Total time about 1 hour. Great kid's program. DG

7:30pm Campfire Tonight! Join the naturalist for an evening of stories, games, and song. Prizes for the little ones, and general fun for everyone! Meet at the Campground Shelter (near site 116). Kids, please bring a parent if you are under 12. Bring marshmallows for roasting over the fire afterwards. Join us! BB, DG, DK



Sunday August 3

9:30am Feed the Birds! Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center and help feed the birds and squirrels in the bird feeding area! Great chance for up-close views! BB

10am Campground Crafts! Send the kids over for an hour of nature craft fun! Join the naturalist at the Campground Shelter as we make some cool crafts you can take back to the campsite. It's sure to be a fun time! DK

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 28 for details. Join us! DK

3pm Naturalist Beach Break! Watch for the naturalist on the beach this afternoon. What special things will he or she have! DG

Monday August 4

10am Another Dam Hike! Meet the naturalist for a 45 minute easy stroll looking as we take you to the mammoth beaver lodge in the dunes! Check out what the beavers are up to this fine day! Meet at the Nature Center. DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 28 for details. Join us! DG

3pm Turtle Time! Scoot your carapace to the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at the turtles that call Indiana Dunes home. We'll explore what makes them special and give the kids a chance to watch them scoot! Take a break from the beach and join us! DK

Tuesday August 5

10am Mt. Tom Bound! Strap on your hiking shoes and join us for a moderate, 1 hour hike to the highest point in the park. We'll stop to see the sights along the way. Meet at the Nature Center. DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 28 for details. Join us! DG

3pm Owl Puke 101. Flock to the Nature Center for an upclose look at the owls of Indiana Dunes. Afterwards dissect your own owl pellet! Great kid's program. Join us! BB

Wednesday August 6

10am Cactus Crawl! Want to see the cactus in the dunes!? Join us at the Beach Pavilion for an hour stroll on Trail 3, as we search out this elusive plant. We'll be back within an hour. BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 28 for details. Join us! DK

3pm The Incredible Journey! Imagine being a droplet of water... where would you go!? Discover the life of a drop of water with the Naturalist at the Nature Center Auditorium this morning! Record your journey, and make a special bracelet that you can take home afterwards. Great program for the kids! DK

Thursday August 7

10am Dune Swamp Safari! Join Dawn for a morning exploration of the dune swamps. Meet at the Nature Center as we suit up with dip nets and bowls and hike to the wetland edge to explore the plants and animals that call this place home. We'll be out for about an hour. Great family fun! DK

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 28 for details. Join us! DK

3pm Naturalist Beach Break! Watch for the naturalist on the beach this afternoon. What special things will he or she have! DG

Friday August 8

10am Dune Geology. Explore the early history of the dunes area with Dale this morning. Meet at the Nature Center auditorium for an interesting look at our dunes geology.

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 28 for details. Join us! DK

3pm Squirrels Gone Wild!... and you can too in this fun, fascinating program at the Nature Center. We'll explore the squirrels of Indiana Dunes, play a candy game, and then go outside and see if we can catch one! Great family fun! BB

5:30pm Campground Craft Fun! Send the kids over while setting up camp for an hour of nature craft fun! Join the naturalist at the Campground Shelter as we make some cool crafts you can take back to the campsite. It's sure to be a fun time! DK

Saturday August 9

Annual Perseid Meteor Shower Tonight!

10am Journey to Ecology Cove. Few people venture to Ecology Cove. Meet the Naturalist at the Campground Shelter for a morning trek past Mt. Tom and into a hidden valley cooled by the lake breezes. We'll be out just over an hour. Join us! BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 28 for details. Join us! DG

3pm Naturalist Beach Break! Watch for the naturalist on the beach this afternoon. What special things will he or she have! DG

8:30pm Star Stories. Join us for an evening on the beach. We'll explore the Native American stories that have been passed down from generation to generation. Meet on the beach, just west of the Pavilion (inside Pavilion stairwell in case of inclement weather). BB, DG

9:15pm Annual Perseid Meteor Stargaze.. Every year at this time the Annual Perseid Meteor Shower rains down with up to 60 shooting stars a minute. Join us this special night on the beach near the Pavilion for an all-night opportunity to star gaze on the beach. Stay as long as you wish. We'll offer special constellation talks at 9:15pm. BB, DG

Sunday August 10

9:30am Feed the Birds! Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center and help feed the birds and squirrels in the bird feeding area! Great chance for up-close views! DG

10am Tragedy Beneath the Waves! What stories haunt the shores of Lake Michigan? Come to the Nature Center Auditorium for a fascinating look at the shipwrecks that lie just off the swimming beach. Afterwards, an optional car pool to the beach will be offered to see where the ships lie! Join us! BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, July 28 for details. Join us! BB

3pm Naturalist Beach Break! Watch for the naturalist on the beach this afternoon. What special things will he or she have! DG



Monday August 11

10am Lion Hunt!! Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center for a lion hunt of sorts! We'll be hiking into the high dunes in search of the elusive ant lion. We'll be back within an hour. Join us! BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks this year! We meet everyday for an hour to get you started or help you along. BB

3pm Snakes Alive! Get up close and personal with some of our native snakes at the Nature Center Auditorium. Great kids program, particularly if you may be uncomfortable around these reptiles. DG

Tuesday August 12

10am Ecology of a Sand Dune. Join us at the Nature Center for an hour walk into the high dunes. We'll explore it's creation on this hour hike. DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, August 11 for details. Join us! DG

3pm Nature Scrap Books! Create your own scrap book to remember your visit to The Dunes. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium. DK

Wednesday August 13

10am Dune Jeopardy! Test your Dune trivia knowledge in the Nature Center Auditorium. Prizes for those that know their stuff. DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, August 11 for details. Join us! DK

3pm Wee Beasties at High Power. Meet the Naturalist in the Nature Center for a special look at the tiny creatures that call the dune swamps home. We'll have microscopes and magnifying glasses to get great looks. Join us! DK

Thursday August 14

10am Geocaching Jaunt. Take part in a high tech scavenger hunt this morning. Meet the Naturalist at the Nature Center as we show you how to use a GPS and let you find your very own treasure box! Prizes for the kids. DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, August 11 for details. Join us! DG

3pm Nature Games! Come to the Nature Center and learn some nature themed games and songs. DK

Friday August 15

10am Just a Few Furs! Find out more about the Indiana Dunes mammals in this 45-minute program in the Nature Center Auditorium. DK

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, August 11 for details. Join us! DK

3:00pm Making Your Own Field Guide. Come learn to make your own tree field guide. This 45 min. activity will meet at the Nature Center and will have an easy walk around the Nature Center to look for leaves to put in your field guide. Join us! Kids under 12, please bring a parent. DK

Saturday August 16

10am To the Blowout and Back. Beach House Blowout is a beautiful sight to see in the morning. Join the Naturalist for a one hour trek to this awe inspiring view. Meet at the Nature Center. BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, August 11 for details. Join us! BB

3pm The Incredible Journey! Imagine being a droplet of water... where would you go!? Discover the life of a drop of water with the Naturalist at the Nature Center Auditorium this afternoon! Record your journey, and make a special bracelet that you can take home afterwards. Great program for the kids! DK

7:30pm Night Moves! Join us for an evening adventure into the woods. We'll explore the life that occurs as day fades to night. Meet at the Campground Gate. Children under 12, please bring a parent. No dogs please. DK

Sunday August 17

9:30am Breakfast with the Birds! It's our monthly bird club outing. Join us in the Nature Center Bird Observation Room for a brief program, before heading out on the trail in search of the morning's birds. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. BB

10am Feed the Birds! Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center and help feed the birds and squirrels in the bird feeding area! Great chance for up-close views! DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, August 11 for details. Join us! DG

3pm Naturalist Beach Break! Watch for the naturalist on the beach this afternoon. What special things will he or she have! DG

Monday August 18

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, August 11 for details. Join us! DK

3pm Scales and Tales! Slither into the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at the reptiles of Indiana Dunes. A great program, even if you're uncomfortable around these animals. DK

Tuesday August 19

10am Journey to Ecology Cove. Few people venture to Ecology Cove. Meet the Naturalist at the Campground Shelter for a morning trek past Mt. Tom and into a hidden valley cooled by the lake breezes. We'll be out just over an hour. Join us! DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, August 11 for details. Join us! DG

Wednesday August 20

10am Back to School Beach Walk! The kids are back in school and we can enjoy a more peaceful morning walk along the dunes beach. Meet at the Beach Pavilion for this 45 minute stroll. DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, August 11 for details. Join us! DK

3pm Wetland Stroll. Explore the wetlands with the naturalist this afternoon. Meet at the Nature Center for an easy 45-minute walk. DK

Thursday August 21

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, August 11 for details. Join us! DK

3pm Critter Feeding Hour! Meet the Naturalist in the Nature Center for the bi-weekly feeding of our critters on display. See what they eat, and maybe feed them yourselves! Great family fun! DK

Friday August 22

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, August 11 for details. Join us! DG

3pm Compass Fun! Get lost this afternoon with the Naturalist. Meet at the Nature Center for a look at basic compass orienteering, and then get a chance to try for yourselves. DG

5:30pm Campground Craft Fun! Send the kids over while setting up camp for an hour of nature craft fun! Join the naturalist at the Campground Shelter as we make some cool crafts you can take back to the campsite. It's sure to be a fun time! DG

Saturday August 23

10am Wetland Wander. Join the Naturalist this morning for an easy stroll into the dune wetlands. We'll look for the diversity of life that occurs there. Meet at the Nature Center. DK

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, August 11 for details. Join us! DG

3pm Violent Storms of Lake Michigan. Gather in the Nature Center Auditorium for an interesting look at the severe weather that hits the lake. Special presenter Rob Stormer will also discuss the waves of Lake Michigan. We'll also have special guest speakers from NOAA. Join us!

7:30pm Spider Sniffing! What creatures haunt the dune woodlands at night!? Join us at the Campground Gate for a look at the animals of the night and the senses they need to survive. We'll also show you the naturalist art of spider sniffing! Children under 12, please bring a parent! DG

Sunday August 24

10am Feed the Birds! Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center and help feed the birds and squirrels in the bird feeding area! Great chance for up-close views! DK

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, August 11 for details. Join us! DK

3pm Critter Feeding Hour! Meet the Naturalist in the Nature Center for the bi-weekly feeding of our critters on display. See what they eat, and maybe feed them yourselves! Great family fun! DG

Monday August 25

10am Cactus Crawl. Explore the unique cacti of the dunes on this one hour stroll. Meet the Naturalist at the Beach Pavilion for a look at this fascinating Hoosier plant! DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, August 11 for details. Join us! DG

Tuesday August 26

10am Early Fall Flora. Enjoy a peaceful stroll through the dune woodlands this morning, in search for the early fall flora of the dunes. We'll be out for about one hour. BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, August 11 for details. Join us! DG

Wednesday August 27

10am Journey to Ecology Cove. Few people venture to Ecology Cove. Meet the Naturalist at the Campground Shelter for a morning trek past Mt. Tom and into a hidden valley cooled by the lake breezes. We'll be out just over an hour. Join us! DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, August 11 for details. Join us! BB

3pm Go Green! With gas prices today, folks are looking for ways to save money and help the environment. Check out some green alternatives in this 45 minute program in the Nature Center Auditorium. DG

Thursday August 28

10am Mt. Jackson Jaunt. Explore the high dunes this morning as we trek onto Trail 8 to Mt. Jackson, before turning back to the Nature Center. Meet at the Nature Center for this one hour jaunt. DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. See Monday, August 11 for details. Join us! DK

3pm Critter Feeding Hour! Meet the Naturalist in the Nature Center for the bi-weekly feeding of our critters on display. See what they eat, and maybe feed them yourselves! Great family fun! DK

